

Over the past year, the **Fiscal Services Department** has undertaken numerous tasks, dedicated to the mission of providing sound financial management with the highest degree of financial integrity and accountability.

Over the past year, Seminole County enjoyed economic stability due to the health and resiliency of our county and to the conservative manner in which our budget was formulated. **Fiscal Services** coordinated presentations made to bond rating agencies in anticipation of bond issues for our County courthouse and for our countywide trails system. During the period of national and state economic decline, Seminole County received the highest bond ratings available and ranks among the highest five counties in the state for credit ratings.

The Purchasing and Contracts Division gained statewide and national recognition as one of the premier purchasing agencies in the country. Awards that we received included the Institute for Supply Managements' Achievement of Excellence and National Institute of Governmental Purchasing for best practices in government procurement and Outstanding Agency Accreditation Achievement. We have refined our source selection procedures for complex projects, tapped new sources of supply that bring competition and best value to the procurement process, and partnered with industry to foster business relationships that are mutually beneficial to both parties. A major update to the Purchasing policies and procedures has been completed which reflects current laws and statutes as well as the innovative changes we have made to purchasing processes. We are unique among purchasing agencies to have developed an on-line vendor notification system that supports competition in a streamline, efficient and effective manner.

This year marks the second year of our initial two year budget cycle. With the assistance and cooperation of County management, County departments, and Constitutional Officers, the **Budget Division** coordinated the process of budget development over Fiscal Years 2001/02 and 2002/03. We have met our goals for this budget process which were:

- Improve long-range and strategic planning by considering program and budget needs over a longer horizon.
- Link operating and capital spending through detailed budgets over a minimum of two years.
- Reduce staff time dedicated to budget development in the second year of the budget cycle and redeploy staff to other critical functions and activities.

Through this process and in the midst of a declining economy, we are proud to have maintained our very stable financial condition. The few changes that were made to the second year of our two year cycle reflect increased revenue coupled with some important program additions. We received the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation award for the 9th consecutive year, and for the first time for submitting a two year budget document.

MSBU is excited about coordinating a pilot project in two County subdivisions for the reconstruction of their neighborhood walls. Procedures to assist neighborhoods in the construction of walls have long been requested by the Board. **MSBU** refined its wall construction process over the past year and the two pilot projects are now proceeding. Neighborhood streetlights continue to be an enhancement desired by many subdivisions. We are preparing a change in the manner in which the districts are assessed to more accurately reflect individual district costs.

The newest section of this department **Grants Management** has made great headway as a start-up program. Since inception of this program, we have submitted applications for numerous grants and are proud to have been selected for several awards. We have networked with other grants organizations including the University of Central Florida to create partnership collaborations. These network opportunities heighten our funding possibilities and allow the County to become a visible community partner.

Fiscal Services remains committed to both our internal and external customers and looks forward to developing new processes which will easily facilitate our services.